

2008 Newsletter

MADISON COUNTY MONTANA



Weed Department Updates

This fall, the Madison County Weed Board is focusing on expansion of the weed program and additional facility needs, including adequate storage for equipment. The Board is in the process of acquiring and updating the old Alder road shop to meet these needs. These changes will centralize the Weed District's operations into one area, streamlining the overall program and helping to efficiently manage noxious weeds. Madison County continues to lead many counties in Montana with the utilization of the Cost Share Program. An increased cap of \$750, reimbursed over \$22,000 to landowners for weed control. Additional grant monies provided another \$65,000. With the ongoing support of our voters we are able to continue expanding the program and offer help in getting this money on the ground where it is needed. For more information on the cost share program or other questions regarding noxious weeds, please call us at 406-843-5594. As always, thank you for your continued support of the County Weed Program and for doing your part managing weeds.

County Website

For your convenience, we now have a website that provides a full directory of departments, services offered, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, job notices, calendar of events, meeting agendas and minutes, public and legal notices, board member information, emergency services information, and much more. Access this site at <http://madison.mt.gov/>.

TAX INFORMATION

Madison County 2008 Real Estate taxes are due 12-1-08 and 5-31-09. You may choose to pay your taxes in full in November or pay the first half by 12-1-08 and the second half by 5-31-09. Both payment stubs are on your original tax notice. We do not send out a second tax notice for the May payment. Please do not send payment for your taxes if your mortgage company is to pay them. If you wish to pay by credit card, call 1-800-272-9829, jurisdiction code 3614, or use Officialpayments.com. If you need to change an address or wish to know how your tax is figured, call the Dept of Revenue at 406-843-5335. If you have recently sold your property, forward the tax bill to the current owner or return it to the Treasurer's Office. If taxes are received after the due date, they will be returned for penalty and interest. If you have delinquent taxes, your 2008 taxes must be paid in full before your delinquencies.

DES / Communications

Nearly 2 years ago, Madison County Emergency Services took a new and exciting turn. Dovetailing operations with the Communication Department and the Sheriff's Office, Madison County has worked diligently to foster an environment that supports the growth and improvement of emergency services to our county. The Communication Department, Department of Emergency Services and the Sheriff's Office work closely with the LEPC to facilitate county wide emergency plans and procedures. Management, direction and implementation, through a combined effort, are part of the goals to improve the entire spectrum of county service. Madison County has implemented a new EMERGENCY INFO website. The site madison.homestead.com will allow near "up to the minute"

emergency info to those with internet access. The site will be updated several times each day and residents are encouraged to visit the site regularly.

Public Health

The Madison County Public Health Department wishes to thank all the county taxpayers for passing our mill levy vote. This department provides services to all ages and all income groups; and with the support from our voters, we will be able to focus our efforts to develop more programs for low-income families and senior citizens. Please visit our website at www.madison.mt.gov for a full scope of our services and for this fall's Flu Clinic Schedule. You can also reach us by calling 406-843-4295.

Planning Department

There are new people in the Planning Department. Leona Stredwick is the new Planning Assistant, replacing Marilee Foreman-Tucker, who provided stellar service to the Planning Board for many years. Jim Jarvis (Planner) joined Charity Fechter (Director) in December. Subdivision activity is down throughout the County, but there's definitely interest in wind energy. Permits for 8 meteorological towers and 8 wind energy conversion towers were considered and approved in the past year. The Streamside Protection Steering Committee is working on a possible streamside setback ordinance in the Madison drainage and the area east of the Tobacco Root Mountains and Gravelly Range. The proposal is still a work in progress. Information is posted on the County's website at: http://madison.mt.gov/departments/plan/current_proposals/StreamsideCommittee.asp. Public comments and questions on the proposal are welcome; please direct them to mcstreams@3rivers.net.

Grant Office

Barbie Durham, the County Grant Writer, has been working on some very important projects. New siding for the Ennis Nursing Home is in the works; with the possibility of a larger remodeling project at the Sheridan Nursing Home. Barbie is also working on a restoration project for the buildings at the Fairgrounds and a project to upgrade the camping facilities there.